Level Committee under Member (WP&P), Central Water Commission. The committee has held two meetings so far. Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme is available for approved, ongoing projects for their early completion.

Indo-Bangaladesh talks on Bharing of common Rivers

2698. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have entered into an agreement on sharing of water of common rivers;

(b) if so, the assistance Government would provide to Bangladesh in preparing detailed project reports on constructing Padma Barrage and also for fighting the Arsenic poisoning problem sweeping many parts of Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYACHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) India had entered into an agreement with Bangladesh for sharing of Ganga water at Farakka in December, 1996.

In the Joint Rivers Commission meeting held at Dhaka in January, 2001. Government of India have agreed in principle to the Bangladesh request for financial and technical assistance to carry out the feasibility and detailed engineering works of the Ganges Barrage Project in Bangladesh. It was also agreed during the meeting that both countries could be mutually benefited through exchange of tested technologies, ideas, experiences and research findings in combating the arsenic problem.

Grant-In-Aid to Rajasthan

† 2699. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister ofWATER, RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant provided to Rajasthan by the Ministry of Water Resources in the financial years of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith the details of the heads programmes or projects and specific field for which the said grant has been provided; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.